

Sarah Davidson is a part-time senior researcher at the Center for Applied Research and Urban Policy at the University of the District of Columbia in Washington, DC. She was born in North Little Rock, Arkansas, and grew up in the segregated South. Ms. Davidson is great-great-granddaughter of maternal and paternal grandparents who were enslaved. In 2000, she founded the Association for the Preservation of North Little Rock, Arkansas African American History, and currently serves as its national president. For the past six years she tirelessly worked under the guidance of her mentor, the late Arkansas historian Curtis Sykes, to preserve North Little Rock, Arkansas black history. Ms. Davidson divides her time between her Silver Spring, MD home and her hometown, North Little Rock. Using grants from commissions and humanities councils, she conducted oral interviews and extensive documentation on North Little Rock, Arkansas black communities that are housed in the archives of the Black History Commission of Arkansas and the North Little Rock History Commission. In 2004, she was cited as a contributing researcher in On the Opposite Shore, the Making of North Little Rock,” by Cary Bradburn, the city’s first effort to include African Americans historical contributions.

In 2006 Ms. Davidson and her organization received rave reviews in the North Little Rock Times, the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and on local electronic media for their 13-panel exhibit, “*Black Life on the North Side of the River 1850-2000*.” The exhibit has been displayed at the William F. Laman Public Library, the Pulaski County Technical College, the new Scipio A. Jones Post Office in Little Rock and the North Little Rock History Commission.

Ms. Davidson’s preservation work in Arkansas received national attention when Howard University professor, Dr. Elizabeth Clark-Lewis viewed her work as a template for history preservation projects in African American communities and asked her to present at the 2006 Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Ms. Davidson presented her research and findings at the 2006 and 2007 ASALH conferences. In 2006, she presented on “*Starting A History Preservation Project in African American Communities*,” and in 2007 she presented in Charlotte, North Carolina on, “*After Slavery: Migration to the North Side of the Arkansas River*.”

An advocate for change and social justice from her youth, Ms. Davidson at age 15 organized the North Little Rock, Arkansas NAACP Youth Council and served as its president. The council forced public facilities in North Little Rock to change their segregation policies. Ms. Davidson’s story is included in the Library of Congress’s “*Voices of Civil Rights*” project as a permanent collection. In 1965, she received the Eleanor Roosevelt Scholarship for her civil rights work.

In 1993, the Arkansas Democrat Gazette chronicled Ms. Davidson’s journey from North Little Rock to Washington, DC and her relationship with the late civil rights icon, Daisy G. Bates, in an article entitled, “*Central High Crisis Leaves Lasting Impact on Arkansan*.”

Ms. Davidson is a member of the Association of Black Women Historians, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, and serves on the board of the Howard University Alumni Association and the National Federation of Black Women Business Owners. In 1996, she traveled to London, England and assisted with the inauguration of the Federation’s Black Women Business Owners’ United Kingdom Chapter.

Ms. Davidson has a BA degree from Howard University in Sociology and a M.A. degree from Catholic University in Education. She is listed in editions in *Outstanding Young Women of America* and *Who’s Who in American Women*.